



LMC NEWS

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MEDICAL DEFENCE FEES

South Staffs LMC has been alerted to a change in behaviour amongst Medical Defence societies which may have practical and financial implications for practices. Historically annual costs for particular types of doctors have been relatively uniform within any one doctor type e.g. GPs. However with rising litigation costs, most defence societies now risk assess GPs particularly those they know to be outliers in terms of complaints or claims against them. It seems that some GPs are now penalised for asking advice too many times.

In one recent case a GP partner working solely in hours has seen his annual defence society costs rise to £ 38K. This may be an unsupportable overhead that makes GPs leave the profession. Those GPs working out of hours have also faced rises in costs, possibly making it uneconomic to continue with this line of work.

Some practices pay the annual defence society subscriptions of the partners from practice funds (i.e. it is not a cost on any individual). Others pay the defence costs of salaried GPs they employ.

Practices may wish to consider whether the facts outlined above require a change to the way they handle the funding of annual defence society subscriptions. This is a very significant issue for the profession over which the GPC is taking urgent action.

PMS CONTRACTS IN SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE

The Area Team now known as NHSE North Midlands is currently responsible for PMS Contracts. The Government published a PMS Review framework in September 2014 which has been circulated to all practices. It has been proposed by the Medical Director, Ken Deacon, that there are 3 ways to deal with the move to equitable funding with GMS by removal of the PMS premium:

1. Return to GMS;
2. Tapering of PMS budgets over 7 years by not giving any uplifts until level with GMS funds. The calculations show this will provide less disruption in finances with advance planning;
3. Practice request for full PMS Review.

The final decision about the process to be offered to practices will be made in early May by the Joint Commissioning Board which includes the CCGs and AT. It is clear that any resources freed up from the PMS Review will be reinvested in General Practice services and will be used in the CCG of which the PMS practice is a member.

PHARMACY FLU VACCINATIONS TO UNDER 65 YEARS FOR 2015/16 FLU SEASON

Public Health has communicated their decision to offer flu vaccinations to under 65 years at Pharmacies for the 2015/16 flu season. The service offer is to those aged from 18 years to under 65s in clinical risk groups and pregnant women aged 18 years and over.

The LMC is disappointed that in spite of our strongly worded response they want flexibility before the support and maintenance of GP services. Practices will need to ensure they arrange their flu vaccine delivery dates as early as possible and target the under 65s first.

DO I HAVE TO ATTEND A FUNERAL PARLOUR OUTSIDE MY PRACTICE AREA TO COMPLETE A CREMATION FORM?

There is a legal requirement for a Cremation Certificate to be completed if a body is to be cremated. This does not equate to a legal requirement on an individual GP to sign it.

Reasonable funeral directors will arrange for the body to be viewed at a funeral parlour locally or alternatively pay the GP's requested fee to include time and travel costs.

The GPC recently met representatives of the funeral industry and agreed it is **never** acceptable to undertake an examination other than in appropriate premises.

Undertakers can arrange with local colleagues to provide a suitable venue.

The industry fully understands that it is its responsibility, on behalf of the family, to arrange the examinations and forms.

They also said its members would be willing to attend outside office hours if needed.

Dr David Dickson
LMC Secretary

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

14 May	Samuel Johnson Hospital, Lichfield	LMC
2 July	Edric House, Rugeley	AT

The meetings with the **LMC** are for the full committee of LMC members without the AT.

The meetings with the **AT** are for the LMC Executive and the AT alone.

LMC MEMBERS

The following is a list of current members of the South Staffs LMC

Dr D Dickson (Secretary)	01283 564848
Dr V Singh (Chairman)	01543 870580

Dr P Gregory (Executive member)	01543 682611
Dr G Kaul (Executive member)	01543 414311
Dr P Needham (Executive member)	01283 565200
Dr T Scheel (Executive member & Treasurer)	01283 845555

Dr M Bermingham	01785 822220
Dr O Barron	01889 562145
Dr J Chandra	01543 870560
Dr J Eames	01785 815555
Dr E Odber	01827 219843
Dr A Parkes	01827 68511
Dr A Selvam	01543 571650
Dr E Wilson	01922 415515
Dr A Yi	01543 870590
Dr H Zein-Elabdin	01922 702240

DR V SPLEEN

Dear Reader

Will the general election make any difference to our lives in General Practice? Does it matter who wins and where do the political parties stand with regard to health care especially relating to General Practice? See if you can match the policy with the political party? (Conservatives, Labour, Lib-dems, UKIP, Green, Respect, Plaid Cymru, SNP, DUP, SDLP, Sinn Fein, Alliance) - ref BBC News website.

1. Insist migrants and visitors to UK have private health insurance
2. Cap the amount private firms can profit from the NHS at 5%
3. Raise pay for NHS staff
4. One stop cancer diagnosis
5. Same day appointments for over 75s
6. Free social care
7. Fund 8000 more GPs
8. Introduce free care for the elderly
9. End privatisation in the NHS
10. Abolish prescription charges
11. Train and recruit 1000 extra doctors
12. Seven day access to GPs by 2020.

Answers

1. UKIP
2. Labour
3. Respect
4. SNP
5. Conservatives
6. Green
7. UKIP, Labour
8. Respect
9. Respect, Plaid Cymru, SDLP, Green
10. Respect
11. Plaid Cymru
12. Conservatives

VENTURE

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of the LMC.